

celebrating those freedoms through the Armenian Weekly Newspaper. In addition to its extensive coverage of news events of interest to the Armenian-American community, over the years, the paper has printed numerous short stories, essays and poems. For example, the stories that initially brought noted Armenian-American writer and playwright William Saroyan to national attention were first published in the Armenian Weekly.

I congratulate Editor Jason Sohigian and everyone associated with this remarkable publication and I wish the Armenian Weekly Newspaper many more years of service and success.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL P. WIEDEMER, U.S. AIR FORCE, DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY AT FORT LEE, VIRGINIA, FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2004*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Major General Michael P. Wiedemer, Director of the Defense Commissary Agency, for his loyal service to the United States and Virginia's Fourth District.

Major General Wiedemer's dedication and loyalty to the advancement of our district and the nation as a whole is to be commended. He has played an instrumental role in overseeing the growth and preservation of the military's worldwide commissary system since he assumed command in August 2002.

Since first being commissioned in the U.S. Air Force over 30 years ago, Major General Wiedemer's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. After four years of service, he served as Chief of Data Automation as part of the 347th Tactical Fighter Wing on the Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. He has served on numerous airbases throughout the United States. His military education is extensive and includes Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College, Defense Systems Management College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Major General Wiedemer also holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters degree in Industrial Management.

Major General Wiedemer's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, an Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Major General Wiedemer has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to his country. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Major General Michael P. Wiedemer.

CONGRATULATING MR. JEROME W. WATSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. Jerome W. Watson on his retirement from United Steelworkers of America Local Union 1066. Jerome has spent nearly 35 years dedicating his life to the interests of Local Union 1066 as well as his community in Northwest Indiana. His career at Local 1066 has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

Jerome Watson has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. Before joining Local 1066, Jerome admirably served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge in 1969. He began his career at Local 1066 as a Grievance Committeeman in 1976. After being hired by United States Steel as a Motor Inspector Expanded, Jerome faithfully served Local 1066 on the Classification Committee, By-Law Committee, Institute for Career Development Local Joint Committee, Legislative Committee, and as Editor/Chair of the Banner Newspaper Committee. He was Grievance Chairman of Local 1066 from 1985–1991 and again in 1996–2003, and he served as the President from 2003–2004.

Not only has Jerome Watson had many positive accomplishments throughout his career at Local 1066, he has also actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs aimed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. Jerome participated in the successful negotiations that resulted in the Ivy Tech/United States Steel craft articulation agreement, which allowed graduated apprentices and trainees to obtain Associates Degrees through credit allowed for previous relevant training and additional Ivy Tech core classes. Along with his many other accomplishments, Jerome has received numerous awards and certificates, including the Q1 award for Union Involvement from Ford Motor Company, the Labor award from the A. Phillip Randolph Institute. He was honored with the awards of merit for Local Union 1066 Banner Newspaper for best local union coverage, best regular column, and best U.S.X. 1986 "lockout coverage." Jerome received certificates of approval from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, and the Ivy Tech State College program of Electrical and Mechanical Degree Program.

Jerome has demonstrated his loyalty by his outstanding service to Local 1066 and his community through his hard work and self-sacrifice. Although Jerome has served on numerous Committees and has dedicated his time to Local 1066, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family. Jerome and his wife Linda have one son, Jerome Jr., and a daughter, Tina.

Mr. Speaker, Jerome Watson has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. He has taught every member of Local 1066 the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indiana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distin-

guished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Jerome Watson for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment for the record regarding yesterday's passage of the Maloney Amendment to H.R. 4766, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005.

The Maloney amendment, which was adopted yesterday by the House by voice vote, stated that no funds may be used to keep a contraception drug as prescription-only if it has been determined to be safe and effective without a doctor's supervision. Let the record state that there is not an oral contraceptive that has been determined to be safe and effective without a doctor's supervision. Current law already requires FDA to make products available over the-counter only when they are found to be safe and effective.

On May 7, 2004, the FDA rejected an over-the-counter application from Barr Pharmaceuticals for the morning after pill because and I quote: "... we have concluded that you have not provided adequate data to support a conclusion that Plan B can be used safely by young adolescent women for emergency contraception without the professional supervision of a practitioner licensed by law to administer the drug." The petitioners for over-the-counter status could not prove that the drug was safe and effective without a doctor's supervision. It is important to note that the Maloney amendment has no effect on current law and merely restates current FDA law and policy regarding prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs.

I am concerned that my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle are attempting to use this amendment to chastise the FDA for its refusal to allow morning-after birth control pills to be sold without a doctor's prescription. I understand that the FDA is being lobbied heavily by the business community and social liberal groups for acceptance of Plan B and other over-the-counter pills that would seek to terminate a pregnancy. I'm encouraged that the FDA is willing to place the concerns of public health above other considerations and I am hopeful that the FDA will continue to resist pressure from these outside interests.